pesticides in them and its effect on the consumers in view of the fact that the manufacturers utilize the same water as that of packaged drinking water and mineral water for the production of the popular brands of aerated soft drinks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Unstarred Question 4519 was answered in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 2003 by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare. BIS has already evolved amendments in the relevant Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water in order to align them with the World's best norms for pesticide residues. They will be implemented as and when they are incorporated in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) to (d) The matter falls under the purview of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act,1954 which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Sugar mills in current crushing season

†444. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills which have started sugar production during the current crushing season;

(b) the number of sugar mills which are closed at present, State-wise;

(c) the details of the corrective steps taken to restart these mills, State-wise; and

(d) the target of production of sugar fixed for current crushing season?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The number of sugar mills which have started crushing/ sugar production during the current sugar season 2002-2003 so far are 454.

(b) State-wise number of sugar mills which did not work/have not worked so far during the sugar season 2002-2003, is at statement (*See* below).

(c) The commencement of crushing by sugar mills/production of sugar depends upon the number of factors like sugarcane availability, management, condition of plant and machinery, efficiency of working etc. and as such the responsibility for commencement of crushing/ production of sugar lies with the concerned sugar mills.

(d) The Central Government has not fixed any target for production of sugar during the current crushing season.

Statement

State-wise number of sugar Mills which did not work/have not worked so far during current sugar season 2002-2003

State	2002-2003 (P) Total (As on 15.06.03)
Rajasthan	2
Uttar Pradesh	3
Madhya Pradesh	3
Gujarat	2
Maharashtra	12
Assam	1
Andhra Pradesh	2
Karnataka	6
Tamil Nadu	2
Orissa	3
West Bengal	2
All India	38

(P) - Provisional